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PRESS RELEASE

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ROCKFORD'S CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT **DEPARTMENT NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR ADVANCED** **ENERGY CODE PROGRAM**

Rockford, IL – October 4, 2011 - The City of Rockford has been recognized by the Federal Department of Energy for the successful implementation of its Advanced Energy Code Program, which has resulted in a successful monitoring and enforcement system to allow new residential and commercial construction to meet contemporary standards of energy efficiency.

The Advanced Energy Code project utilized federal grant money for staff retention, training, and materials. Over 235 hours of staff training was conducted, and an additional 240 firms & companies from the local development and construction community were able to take advantage of training and outreach sessions set up by the City in partnership with other agencies.

As of January 2010, residential building and construction permits in the City of Rockford are required to comply with the International Energy Conservation Code. The City has developed its own energy compliance checklist to assist applicants in demonstrating code compliance. Inspections are then conducted to verify projects comply once instructed. Building and construction permits now require an energy compliance checklist and inspections will be made to ensure compliance. Additional standards based on the international energy code will also be used to guide rehabilitation and reuse of existing buildings.

In recognition of this success, Seth Sommer, Building Code Official for the City of Rockford, was invited to share the achievements of the program to regional and national colleagues on a webinar hosted by the Department of Energy's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). The TAP was set up by the Federal Government to assist communities across the country that had received funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), a program that, beginning in 2009, provided over \$1.5 million dollars to the City of Rockford to implement energy efficiency initiatives and green projects.

Sommer's presentation is available through the City's website at:

<http://rockfordil.gov/community-economic-development/construction-development-services/energy.aspx>

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